

LAW OFFICES OF LINGEL H. WINTERS
LINGEL H. WINTERS, ESQ. - State Bar No. 037759
A Professional Corporation
One Maritime Plaza, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 398-2941

GIRARDI & KEESE
THOMAS V. GIRARDI, ESQ. State Bar No. 36603
1126 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017-1904
Telephone (213) 977-0211

Counsel for Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE TFT-LCD (FLAT PANEL)
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Master File No. C07-1827 SI

No. C-07-2796 SI

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO

EMW, Inc. v. LG Philips LCD Co., Ltd. et al.

Case No. C-07-2796 SI and

ALL INDIRECT PURCHASER
ACTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO
APPOINT INTERIM CLASS COUNSEL FOR
THE CALIFORNIA INDIRECT
PURCHASERS SUBGROUP

DATE: July 10, 2007

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Hon. Susan Illston

Courtroom: 10

1 TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:

2 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as
3 the matter can be heard, before the Honorable Susan Illston of the United States District Court,
4 Northern District of California, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, the
5 undersigned law firms and counsel will and hereby do move for an order appointing them as
6 Interim Class Counsel for the putative California Indirect Purchaser Subclass in these
7 consolidated actions, and establishing pretrial procedures to govern same.

8 This motion is brought pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
9 The grounds for this motion are that management of this complex case will benefit from the
10 appointment of Interim Class Counsel for the putative California Indirect Purchaser Subclass and
11 as set forth in the accompanying Motion and Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and that the
12 undersigned firms and counsel are well qualified for the position due to their experience in
13 antitrust class action litigation and trials and other complex litigation. This motion is based on this
14 notice of motion and motion, and the supporting memorandum of points and authorities, the
15 Declaration of Lingel H. Winters and the Proposed Order filed or submitted herewith, any papers
16 filed in reply, such argument as may be presented at the hearing, and all other papers and records
17 on file in this matter.

18 DATED: JUNE 21, 2007

GIRARDI & KEESE

LINGEL H. WINTERS P.C.

21 /s/ 
22 LINGEL H. WINTERS

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff EMW, Inc. is a California TFT-LCD indirect purchaser “end user” as alleged in *EMW, Inc. v. L.G. Philips LCD Co. Ltd. et al.*, No. C-07-2796-SI (Compl. para. 7), a related case to In Re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation No. 07-1827 SI. Plaintiff EMW, Inc. submits this Motion to appoint Plaintiff EMW, Inc.’s counsel Lingel H. Winters P.C. and its co-counsel Girardi & Keese, as the TFT-LCD Interim Class Counsel for the California Indirect Purchaser Subgroup. Lingel H. Winters PC previously served on the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee in *In Re Microsoft I-IV Antitrust Cases*, J.C.C.P.4106, 135 Cal. App.4th 706 (2006), which resulted in a settlement for California indirect purchasers of Microsoft software valued at \$1.1 Billion. The *Microsoft* case demonstrates what an independent California case can accomplish for a class of California indirect purchasers. The structural issue raised here, that since California indirect purchasers have a commonality and significant size, they constitute a separate subgroup of the instant TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation, is an issue that the Court is best equipped to address.

I. The California Indirect Purchaser Subgroup Possesses the Requisite Commonality And Significant Size For An Independent Subgroup

First, California indirect purchasers are governed by a common body of law, and they comprise a substantial class unto themselves. The California Cartwright Act (Cal. Bus. & Prof. C. sec. 16750) provides a common basis for the California indirect purchasers’ antitrust claims, and by specific legislative amendment, it contains a repealer provision for indirect purchaser claims, which repeals the applicability of the direct purchaser rule adopted by the Supreme Court relative to the Sherman Act in *Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois* 431 U.S. 720 (1977). The state repealer has been upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court. *California v. ARC America Corporation* (1989) 490 U.S. 93, 104 L Ed 2d 86, 109 S. Ct. 1661. In addition, California has adopted the Unfair Competition Law (UCL), Bus. & Prof. C. sec. 17200, which, unlike the laws of many states, enables Californians to broadly pursue claims that are illegal, unfair or fraudulent, including antitrust claims. In this connection, the California courts have held that the UCL

1 “borrows” claims, such as antitrust claims, that are illegal under other statutes such as the
 2 Cartwright Act or the Sherman Act. *People Ex Rel. Bill Lockyer v. Fremont Life Ins. Co.* 104 Cal.
 3 App.4th 508, 515-517 (2002).

4 These statutes give California indirect purchasers alternative antitrust weapons. By
 5 contrast, the majority of states lack the *Illinois Brick* repealer amendment, available under
 6 California’s Cartwright Act, that empower indirect purchasers to sue. In fact, apart from
 7 California, there are only nineteen Other Repealer States before the Court whose antitrust statutes
 8 specifically authorize suits by indirect purchasers. The population of California alone makes up
 9 approximately 35% of the populations of all the states that have enacted *Illinois Brick* repealer
 10 statutes empowering indirect purchasers to sue under each of their state’s laws. This is because,
 11 apart from California, the Other Repealer States, with state antitrust repealer statutes empowering
 12 indirect purchasers to sue that are before this Court, are states with comparatively small
 13 populations - Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan,
 14 Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South
 15 Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.¹ Since the antitrust case law of
 16 those states that have antitrust statutes with repealer amendments is different, they lack the
 17 commonality essential to a single, unified class.

18 Since the laws of Other Repealer States and Other Consumer Protection Law States differ from
 19 the law of California, they lack the commonality for a single, unified class; thus, the courts have
 20 adopted the practice of establishing subclasses to supply the commonality necessary for class
 21 certification. In *Walsh v. Ford Motor Co.* (D.C. Cir. 1986) 807 F.2d 1000, 1017, the Court held
 22 that one seeking a nationwide class comprised of various state law claims must make a showing
 23 involving an “‘extensive analysis’ of state law variances” to demonstrate that such variances can
 24 be effectively managed through creation of subclasses of states with similar legal doctrines. In *In*

25
 26 ¹ The National Geographic Atlas of the World, Revised Sixth Edition (1996) at pp120-121 sets forth total
 27 populations for these Other Repealer States of 58,041,000 by contrast to California’s population of 31,431,000.
 28 Thus, California’s population makes up 35% of the total potential antitrust repealer state population. However, the
 presence of Silicon Valley means that the computer user rate in California is higher than for the rest of the United
 States. Thus, California probably accounts for at least 50% of the indirect purchaser TFT-LCD Flat Panel purchases
 in the repealer states whose antitrust laws are before the Court.

1 *re School Asbestos Litigation* 789 F.2d 996 (3rd Cir. 1986), the Third Circuit found that the
 2 plaintiffs' 'extensive analysis of the variances in products liability among the jurisdictions,'
 3 'separat[ing] the law into four categories,' or subgroups constituted such a showing. Accord: *In*
 4 *Re General Motors Corporation Pick-Up Truck Fuel Tank Products Liability Litigation* 55F.3d
 5 768, 818 (3rd Cir. 1995). In the instant case, the Zelle, Hofmann-Furth firms in their *Eliasoph v.*
 6 *LG Philips LCD Co., Ltd.* complaint (Case Nol C-06-7588 SI) identified three natural subgroups
 7 seeking monetary recovery:

- 8 1) Subgroup One: California (*Eliasoph* Second and Third Claims)
- 9 2) Subgroup Two: Other Repealer States with laws involving "Violations of State Antitrust
 10 and Unfair Competition Laws." (*Eliasoph* Fourth Claim).
- 11 3) Subgroup Three: States under whose laws are claimed "Violations of State Consumer
 12 Protection and Unfair Competition Laws."(*Eliasoph* Fifth Claim).

13 The first such subgroup in the *Eliasoph* complaint are California claimants under the California
 14 Cartwright Act and the California Unfair Competition Law alleged in the Second and Third
 15 Claims for Relief. The second group of states identified in the Fourth Claim for Relief in the
 16 *Eliasoph* complaint are those under whose laws are claimed "Violations of State Antitrust and
 17 Unfair Competition Laws," which involves a batch pleading of the Other Repealer States'
 18 antitrust laws: Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan,
 19 Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South
 20 Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. [Pennsylvania is pled, but it has no
 21 repealer statute]. The third group of states identified in the Fifth Claim for Relief in the *Eliasoph*
 22 complaint are those under whose laws are claimed "Violations of State Consumer Protection and
 23 Unfair Competition Laws," including twenty-one or so states ranging from Alaska to Wyoming.
 24 Thus, the *Eliasoph* complaint establishes three natural subgroups, which is the mechanism
 25 recognized in *Walsh, supra*, *School Asbestos, supra*, and *In re General Motors, supra*, for
 26 securing manageability and protecting a unified and sizeable California subgroup from the
 27 differing and varied legal issues confronting claimants under the laws of the Other Repealer
 28 States and the Other Consumer Protection states. By structuring the initial leadership of this case

1 along the above subgroups lines drawn by the *Eliasoph* complaint, the Court, at the outset will
2 have enhanced manageability and judicial economy for the case.

3 Moreover, indirect purchasers in states not having antitrust statutes with repealer amendments
4 are obliged to rely on a variety of different consumer statutes as the basis for their claims, which
5 vary markedly from state to state. For instance, some consumer statutes narrowly define the
6 “consumer goods and services” covered by the statute and some call for the purchaser to use the
7 purchased item for “household purposes.” E.g. Rhode Island Gen. Laws sec. 6-13.1-1 *et seq.*
8 Thus, businesses who are indirect purchasers would be excluded from such a class setting up an
9 immediate conflict between indirect purchasers who purchase for individual household purposes
10 from business purchasers. Some of the Other States preclude representative actions such as
11 Louisiana, (See La. Rev. Stat. Sec. 51:1409(A)[plaintiffs “may bring an action individually but
12 not in a representative capacity to recover actual damages”) *Morris v. Sears Roebuck & Co.* 765
13 So. 2d 419, 421 (4th Cir. 2000)(Louisiana state “expressly prohibits a private class action.”; Mont.
14 Code Ann. Sec. 39-14-133(1) (consumers “may bring an individual not a class action”); S.C.
15 Such conflicting interests preclude adequate representation.

16 In addition, this Court was selected by the MDL panel in part because of the predominant
17 number of California cases involved. (MDL Order dated 4/17/07 at pp. 1-2). The California cases
18 filed in the Northern District are here for trial, the cases transferred from other jurisdictions have
19 been sent here for discovery, but not for trial. *Lexecon, Inc. v. Milberg, Weiss et al.* (1998) 523
20 U.S. 26, 140 L.Ed.2d 62, 118 S.Ct. 956. In fact, one of this Court’s options is to divide the class
21 into subclasses, but another option is to continue the transferred cases as “multi-district litigation
22 for the remainder of pre-trial discovery,” then re-transfer them to their originating jurisdictions
23 for trial. *In Re General Motors Pick-Up Truck Fuel Tank Products Liability Litigation, supra*, at
24 p.818. The Court should preserve its options by creating an independent California Subgroup at
25 this time with independent counsel.

26 **II. Class Representatives Can Only Provide Adequacy Of Representation To**
27 **Members Of Their Own Subgroup With Whom Their Interests Are Aligned**

28 In *Amchem Products v. Windsor* (1997) 521 U.S. 591, 625-628; 177 S.Ct. 2231; 138 L.Ed 2d

689, the failure to promptly address a subgroup conflict resulted in years of lost work for the district court and counsel, resulting in reversal of a class action settlement by the U.S. Supreme Court. In *Amchem, supra*, the Supreme Court rejected the settlement of an overbroad class in part because

“the interests of those within the *single class* are not aligned. Most saliently, for the currently injured, the critical goal is generous immediate payments. That goal *tugs against* the interests of exposure-only plaintiffs in ensuring an ample inflation-protected fund for the future.” (at 521 U.S. 626.) (Emphasis added).

Likewise, the goal of California claimants *tugs against* the interests of claimants from Other Repealer States whose claims arise from different state statutes. Since claims under different state statutes have variances in strengths and weaknesses, there are conflicts in allocating any settlement or recovery among the differing state claimants. Thus, the interests of Californians and claimants from other States are not aligned and Californians could not be adequately represented by an executive committee that also represents claimants under other States’ laws whose claims are not aligned. As stated in *Moore’s Federal Practice* 3d Ed., Vol. 5 at para. 23.25[2][a] “Because any conflict of interest between the named representative and class members would undermine the fiduciary relationship and would impugn the duty of loyalty, courts use the adequacy-of-representation analysis to uncover conflicts of interest between the named plaintiffs and the class they presume to represent.”

The Supreme Court, in *Amchem*, quoted the Second Circuit as follows:

‘But the adversity among subgroups requires that the members of each subgroup cannot be bound to a settlement except by the consents given by those who understand that their role is to represent solely the members of their respective subgroups. *In re Joint Eastern and Southern Dist. Asbestos Litigation*, 982 F.2d 721, 742-743 (1992), modified on reh’g *sub nom. In re Finley*, 993 F.2d 7 (1993). (at 521 U.S. 627). (Emphasis added).

In other words, counsel has authority to represent and bind only a subgroup with interests aligned with his client’s own interests, to whom he can give undivided loyalty, not the non-aligned interests of both the California subgroup whose interests are in conflict with the subgroups whose claims are made under the laws of other States. This restriction on the authority of counsel was recognized as an ethical limitation on counsel from representing “potentially

1 differing interests” in *Piambino v. Bailey* (11th Cir. 1985) 757 F.2d 1112, 1144-1147, fn. 84. But
 2 the *Piambo* court at fn. 88 also noted:

3 “Appropriate action in the instant case would have involved, at the
 4 very least, the designation of the Minority Group as a sub-class
 5 with the right to have separate counsel unbeholden to Lead
 Counsel.”

6 The Ninth Circuit has approved the use of subclasses to avoid conflicts. *Blackie v.*
 7 *Barrack* (9th Cir. 1975) 524 F.2d 891, 908-911, and uphold certification. As noted in *Moore’s*
 8 *Federal Practice*, 3d Ed. Vol. 5 at para. 23.25[2][f][6] inadequacy of representation due to
 9 conflicts can be cured by establishing subgroups, which should be established when counsel are
 10 appointed to preserve the independence and confidentiality of counsel. Failure to timely establish
 11 independent representation for subgroups may even jeopardize class certification. *Mayfield v.*
 12 *Dalton*, 109 F.3d 1423, 1427 (9th Cir. 1997); *Pickett v. Iowa Beef Processors* (11th Cir. 2000) 209
 13 F.3d 1276, 1280. As the Supreme Court noted in *Amchem, supra*, at footnote 20, the adequacy-
 14 of-representation requirement “tends to merge with the typicality and commonality criteria of
 15 Rule 23(a),” which impediments can be cured by promptly establishing subgroups.

16 In the recent antitrust case of *Bradburn Parent/Teacher Store, Inc. v. 3M 2004-2 Trade*
 17 *Cases* (E.D., Pa. 2004) at para. 74,523, the district court at first denied certification of an
 18 overbroad class that included both purchasers of 3M branded tape and reseller purchasers from
 19 3M of private label tape on the ground that there was a conflict between the overcharge damages
 20 theory of the 3M branded tape purchasers and a ‘lost profits’ theory of damages that the resellers
 21 of private label tape “would likely be interested in pursuing.” (at para. 74,523). However, when
 22 the class was subsequently narrowed to exclude resellers of private label tape, the district court
 23 certified the class.

24 Moreover, adequacy of representation is a requisite to assuring due process to absent class
 25 members. *Richards v. Jefferson County, Alabama* (1996) 517 US 793, 801, 116 S.Ct. 1761,
 26 1767; *Hansberry v. Lee* (1940) 311 U.S. 32, 42-43, 61 S. Ct. 115, 118-119; *Crawford v. Honig*
 27 (9th Cir. 1994) 37 F.3d 485, 487 (affirming the vacation of a judgment for lack of adequate
 28 representation of a subclass and approving a sub-class procedure). Thus, the conflicting interests

1 between subgroups not only restricts the authority of counsel for Californians from representing
 2 claimants under Other States' law, it is also precluded by Due Process. The burden of proof as to
 3 adequacy of representation is on the plaintiff. *Arnold v. United Artists Theatre Circuit, Inc.* 158
 4 F.R.D. 439, 448.

5 In *Boucher v. Syracuse University* (1999) 164 F.3d 113 (2d Cir. 1999) at p. 118-119, the
 6 Court said with respect to conflicts: "the proper solution is to create subclasses of persons whose
 7 interests are in accord," which "the district judge must define and redefine... in response to
 8 progression of the case from assertion to facts." In fact, Californians have an "interest in
 9 representation of their interests with *undivided loyalty*." *Payne v. Travenol Labs, Inc.* 673 F.2d
 10 798, 812 (5th Cir. 1982). (Emphasis added). Accord: *Blackie v. Barrack* (9th Cir. 1975) 524 F.2d
 11 891, 908-911. *Evans v. Chicago* (7th Cir. 1982) 689 F.2d 1286, 1293 (vacated on other grounds.)
 12 (7th Cir. 1989) 873 F.2d 1007.

13 The tension in this case between the putative California case and claimants under the
 14 differing laws of Other Repealer States and Other Consumer Protection States is as great as that
 15 between direct and indirect purchasers, and involves differing claims, differing theories of
 16 discovery and prosecution, differing proof as to damages, differing issues for class certification,
 17 and requires separate organizations of counsel. Moreover, "...the appearance of conduct
 18 associated with the institutions of the law [are] as important as the conduct itself." *Kramer v.*
 19 *Scientific Control Corp.* 534 F.2d 1085, 1088 (3rd Cir. 1976), cert. den. 429 U.S. 830 (1976)
 20 (rejecting an *in prose* attorney as class counsel). In light of the availability of settlement classes,
 21 such as those reversed in *Amchem, supra*, it is essential to align subgroups upfront.



22 Plaintiffs' counsel, who represents, EMW, Inc., a California business, in the case of *EMW,*
 23 *Inc. v. Philips*, Case No. C-07-2796-SI, Lingel H. Winters P.C. and Girardi & Keese, represent
 24 plaintiffs who are *solely* Californians. As a California resident, EMW, Inc. submits this Petition
 25 to the Court to establish a properly structured, independent California Indirect Purchaser
 26 subgroup with Lingel H. Winters P.C. and Girardi & Keese as interim lead counsel and members
 27 of an Executive Committee for the California Indirect Purchaser Subgroup.

1 DATED: June __, 2007

LAW OFFICES OF LINGEL H. WINTERS
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

2
3
4 By: 
LINGEL H. WINTERS
Attorneys for Plaintiff

5
6 DATED: June 21, 2007

GIRARDI & KEESE
7 
/s/ Thomas V. Girardi
8 By: 
THOMAS V. GIRARDI